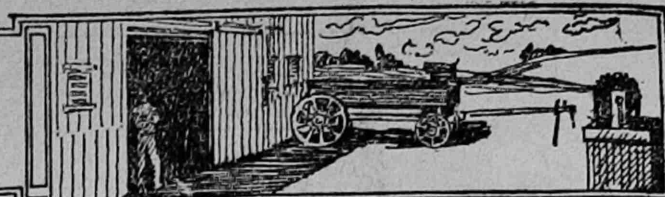




NEWS AND VIEWS OF FARMERS



FORMING A DAIRY HERD

Much Care Should Be Exercised in the Selection of the Parent Stock.

These about to embark upon a stock-breeding enterprise should see that, before a single animal is bought, the farm is provided with suitable buildings for the purpose, and in the next place procure the services of an experienced and thoroughly skilled stockman, and every successful breeder of farm animals will indorse the wisdom and soundness of this advice.

Beginners should not be tempted to buy on show yard rather than herd book qualifications. The temptant who is most likely to realize his desires is the man who makes up his mind as to the particular strain or type of animal he is to produce, and, having done so, he is not likely to be misled by the showman's promises. Consequently, he should not allow himself to be tempted on any account to buy animals not exactly of the pedigree or class likely to improve his herd merely because that animal has achieved notable triumphs in the show yard.

In the case of bulls the need for such exacting discrimination is especially necessary, as many a herd has been temporarily and some permanently deteriorated through injudicious introductions of this kind. The would-be breeder should especially be on his guard against the acquisition of cows and heifers that have been prominent prize winners, not only for the reason that such animals usually command higher prices, but also on the ground that they are less reliable breeders.

As to the selection of bulls, special care should be taken as to the breeding of the animals in relation to the cows in his herd, and it is also urged that as far as may be practicable the sires selected should be calculated by their own individual merit to correct any possible defect in the conformation of the cows.

The advantages possessed by winter calves over those born in spring or summer are sufficiently tangible to warrant efforts on the part of the breeder to have their calves arrive before the advent of spring. It is allowable for pedigreed cows to suckle their calves, but in order to encourage the milking propensities of the cow it should be insisted upon that each animal be milked dry at least once a day until such time as the calf is able to take the whole of the dam's milk.

IN AND OUT OF THE DAIRY

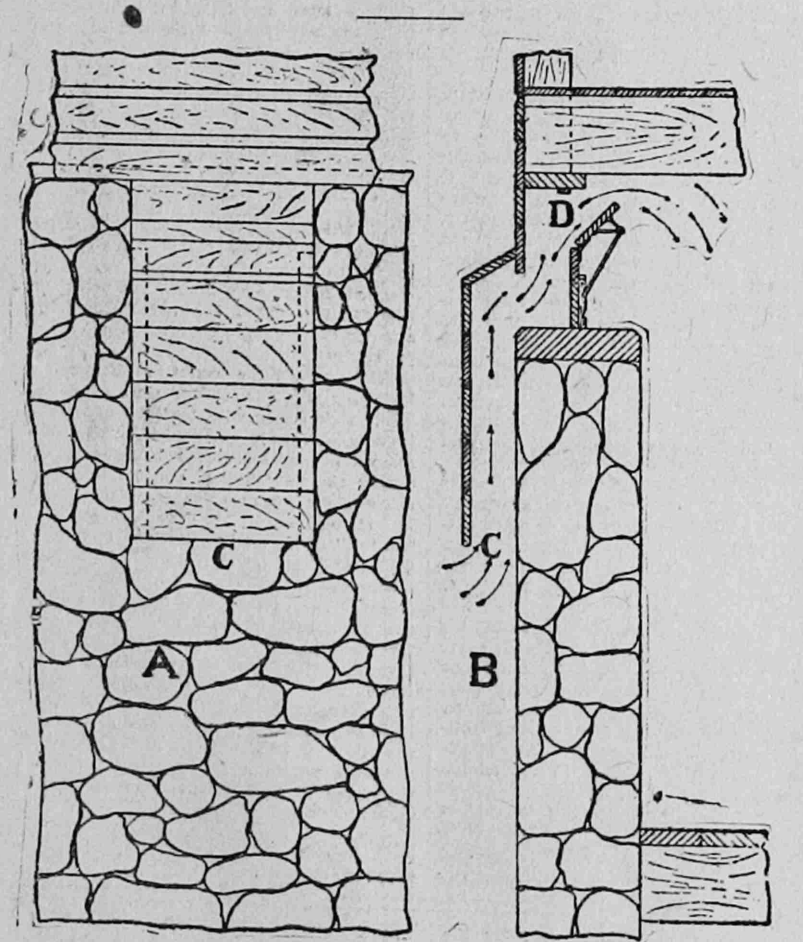
The sticky substance in milk known as albumen can be rinsed off the milk pans with cold water, which should always be used first. Boiling water will cook it on.

To make the best country butter one must not let the cream get too sour, nor skim sweet cream and put with the sour. Let it all ripen at once and the butter will be much better and keep better.

As a rule milk is unfit for use at least two weeks before calving time. However, some cow's milk seems to be good almost up to calving time. Milk is usually not saved for house use until the eighth or ninth milking after calving, although it has been known to be perfectly good after the fourth milking.

A woman in Illinois who makes fine butter writes that she skims the cream of two or three days' milk together, letting it all sour at one time, and churns as soon as it is sour. She makes pound rolls, and her butter always commands the highest price, her customers preferring it to creamery butter.

GOOD STABLE VENTILATION



Method of constructing a fresh air intake in an old barn, using an old window or an opening made for the purpose. Outside opening for the fresh air intake, which furnishes air for the stable, allowing it to enter near the ceiling at D.

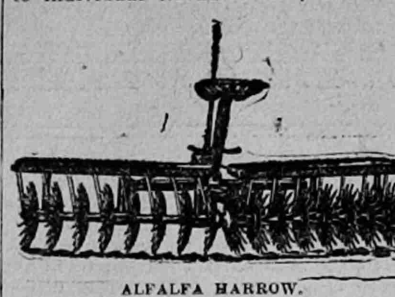
A good ventilating flue should have the same qualities as a good chimney. The best location for the flue, as advocated in the King system of ventilation, is to place it in the rear of the stable as far as possible. If desirable to have two of these flues, place one on each side of the middle of the barn.

The illustration shows the method by which fresh air flues may be placed in an old stable.

DISK-HARROWING ALFALFA

The disk harrow is a common practice for this purpose, but a special machine for the cultivation of alfalfa has been devised on the principle of the disk harrow, but with rows of strong spikes or digging teeth in place of the continuous edges of disks. The spike tooth disk, known as the "alfalfa harrow," does excellent work when properly adjusted, and is perhaps a better implement for this purpose than the ordinary harrow.

At a trifling cost, varying according to individual circumstances, this harrow



ALFALFA HARROW.

row splits, and spreads the crowns of alfalfa plants, causing them to develop additional tops; it destroys the egg deposits and larvae of certain injurious insects; it destroys weeds; it breaks up the silt bank resulting from the use of muddy irrigating water, allowing better penetration of water and air to the roots of the crop; it loosens up certain dense soils, and to some extent it incorporates beneficial soil elements and fallen alfalfa leaves with the soil.—Professor R. H. Forbes.

LITTLE HELPS FOR FARMER'S WIFE

Cellars should be kept scrupulously neat and clean, especially when under living rooms and where vegetables are stored. Vegetables should frequently be examined and sorted over. One decaying potato will affect the air not only of the room in which it is placed but the odor will penetrate the rooms above and often the entire house.

Unslaked lime and a vessel of chloride of lime should always be kept in a cellar that is under a living room, the unslaked lime laid loose in damp corners and the walls of the cellar whitewashed at least once a year.

Do not wrap silverware in printed newspapers, as the chemicals in the ink will tarnish the silver.

To clean silver, mix sweet oil and ammonia with washing and rub with a soft cloth, washing afterward in clear hot water. Soap is said to dim silver.

Rub the edges of the bureau or chiffonier drawers with soap or common tallow to prevent sticking.

To clean a carpet on the floor: After sweeping thoroughly, wipe it carefully with a clean cloth wrung out of hot water containing ammonia. This will brighten the colors, absorb the dust remaining after sweeping and freshen the carpet wonderfully.

Place wooden chopping bowls upside down when not in use to prevent splittling.

White wash-silk waists or skirts can be cleaned in tepid (never hot) water in which white soap has been dissolved. Do not rub on a board, but wash gently with the hands and hang up by shoulders or bands without wringing. Should be ironed before perfectly dry and never rolled or sprinkled. Done carefully in this way, wrinkles may be avoided and the silk will look almost as well as when new.

USE FOR HOUSE SLOPS

Any house slops that are free from grease or acids may be poured around the roots of plants to their advantage, pushing aside the mulch for this purpose, and replacing when done. Water the ground liberally, always watering in the evening. Or have a rubbish corner in which to dump everything that will make plant food, and pour the house slops—all kinds—on it, forking it over occasionally, and letting it decay. Add to the heap any sward from the roadside, peelings and parings from the kitchen.

The Department of Agriculture states that there are 2,151,578 miles of public roads in the United States.

THE EGG-A-DAY LAYING HEN

Experiments Show the Egg Yield May Be Greatly Increased by Scientific Selection.

BY E. E. LARA.

Poultry raisers in the United States are greatly indebted to the thoroughness of the tests made at our experimental stations for a great many important improvements in every branch of the poultry industry.

These experimental farms have proved beyond doubt that by systematic feeding and scientific breeding of hens the latter can be made to greatly increase their number of eggs and also improve the richness and weight of the same, thereby raising their market value.

The gratifying success thus far attained by experiments in the way of increasing the egg-producing qualities of certain breeds of hens has made breeders hopeful of securing still greater achievements along the same line in the near future.

Perhaps to no state in the union is due a greater credit than to Maine for

altogether two barrels of Bordeaux mixture, or enough to fill a 100-gallon tank.

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altogether two barrels of Bordeaux mixture, or enough to fill a 100-gallon tank.

Caution—The lime is added to the blue vitriol principle to prevent the blue vitriol from injuring the foliage. If the mixture is made according to the above directions no damage to the foliage will result, but in case of doubt use a few drops of potassium ferri-cyanide solution. If a deep brown discoloration or precipitate is produced, the mixture needs more lime. The potassium ferri-cyanide crystals can be purchased from any drug store.

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PROPER CARE OF HORSES

Many horses are ruined by being brought into the barn too hot and left to stand in a cold draft or hitched to a post to stand.

A good currying occasionally does not make a sleek horse. It takes every-day grooming to open the pores, soften the skin and produce a good, healthy, sleek coat.

The colt's training must begin shortly after birth. A halter should be put on so he can be caught and handled every day. Never release him. Regularity of work counts in everything, and especially in the handling of animals.

The horse that is worked regularly acquires strong muscles and tough shoulders.

Many farmers allow their work horses to remain idle for several days or weeks at a time, and then immediately put them into hard service.

A horse that has been idle for several days should be given very light and moderate work for the first day or two, so that the muscles and skin will regain their strength and toughness.